

Financial System Modernization Project
Acquisition Forecast Database record # FY05-260
Questions and Answers Document #4
October 5, 2005

The following questions were submitted between Sept. 7, 2005 and Sept. 22, 2005

Question 33: Does EPA have an update as to when this RFP is planned to be released?

Answer 33: The acquisition forecast database will be revised to reflect an estimated solicitation issuance during the first quarter of fiscal year 2006. EPA intends to publish a notice of proposed contract action to the Governmentwide point of entry (GPE) at least 15 days prior to solicitation issuance.

Question 34: (i) On the Financial System Modernization Project, how is the EPA going to procure the IV&V support services that are mentioned in the documentation? (ii) Will they be part of the contract awarded, or will they be under a separate vehicle? (iii) Will schedule 70 be utilized for those components as well?

Answer 34: (i) The Agency intends to order IV&V support services through existing Agency contracts, if possible. (ii) Per the acquisition forecast database record for the FSMP project (FY 05-260), the successful offeror under the FSMP solicitation will be precluded from providing IV&V support services (iii) See the answer to (i).

Question 35: Could provide me with an update to the status of the Financial System Modernization Project procurement? Have firms off schedule 70 received the final solicitation?

Answer 35: In the interest of transparency and equity, the Government has determined that issuance of a single solicitation under the contracting by negotiation procedures of FAR Part 15 will be utilized. EPA will apply the policies and procedures in OMB Circular A-76 to the extent necessary to achieve a level playing field in a competition involving sources from both the public and private sectors. No solicitation is currently available. EPA intends to publish a notice of proposed contract action to the Governmentwide point of entry (GPE) at least 15 days prior to solicitation issuance.

Question 36: Thank you for publishing the requirements matrix in .xls format. Would the government please release its other acquisition documents in a format that allows us to manipulate their contents or in a .pdf format that can be searched, cut, & pasted?

Answer 36: The Government plans to release other documents related to this acquisition in WordPerfect, Microsoft Word, or searchable .pdf format when the final documents are

released.

Question 37: The Introduction section of the web site says, “EPA will use a single stage acquisition that includes three elements, software, integration, and hosting.” The SOO, section 1.5.4 states, “The Contractor is responsible for providing all software, hardware and infrastructure needed for pre-production FSMP environment(s).” There is no other direct mention of the Contractor providing either hardware or software in the SOO. Is it EPA’s intent that the Contractor provide hardware and software for the production environment?

Answer 37: EPA expects the Offeror to propose the production hosting solution, including applicable hardware, software, and infrastructure. Further details on the hosting solution will be included in the “Instructions to Offerors.”

Question 38: Will submittal from vendors of the complete Down-Select Matrix occur prior to release of the final RFP, in conjunction with the proposal submission, or at some other point in the process?

Answer 38: The submittal from vendors of the complete Down-Select Matrix will occur in conjunction with the proposal submission.

Question 39: In relating the small business goals defined at <http://www.epa.gov/osdbu/goals.htm> to this procurement, are we correct in assuming that the FSMP acquisition falls under the “Subcontract” category and thus EPA’s goal would be that 50% of the work on FSMP would be done by small businesses?

Answer 39: Your assumption is only partially correct. Offerors will be expected to submit a subcontracting plan, and the applicable EPA goals would fall within the “Subcontract” portion of the Agency goals defined at <http://www.epa.gov/osdbu/goals.htm>. However, the 50% goal of small business utilization refers to 50% of total subcontracted dollars, not 50% of the total contract value.

Question 40: Based on review of posted documents (draft CONOPS and Requirements Document), it's clear that the Government is seeking the best solution to improve it's core financial management and complementary services (i.e. planning, budget, analysis, and performance scorecarding). As such, it is expected that an ERP (transaction system) will be central to this project. However, due to increased reporting, visibility and audit requirements (i.e. financial reporting, planning & budgeting and internal controls to name a few) many agencies and leading commercial firms find that a combined ERP/best-of-breed solution better addresses their needs, increases user acceptance and maximizes their return on investment. Best-of-breed solutions typically integrate with and enhance an ERP system's capabilities in the following areas: budget formulation and execution, performance scorecarding, financial statement consolidated & submission and

activity based management. These processes are analytical in nature as opposed to transactional, and therefore complementary to an ERP system.

As the RFQ is currently worded, potential bidders could interpret the EPA's desire to implement a financial solution as a request to simply propose and implement a stand alone ERP system. We request clarification to include guidance to potential bidders that RFQ responses should focus on proposing the best solution that meets the Government's needs. As such, when a bidder believes that a combined ERP/best-of-breed solution best address the Government's needs in a specific area, it should be proposed. We request that the evaluation and downselect criteria reflect this important clarification.

Answer 40: Section 1.3 of the CONOPS document states “The FSMP solution will be evaluated to determine if a COTS product or suite of products should replace legacy systems or whether a combination of COTS products and legacy systems will provide the most effective and efficient solution.” EPA anticipates that each offeror will provide a total solution, addressing all functional areas listed in the CONOPS. The solution may include Vendor-Owned, Third Party, or EPA legacy applications.